

# Debate Assignment

*Central Question - Does the United States have a class system similar to India's caste system?*

How will each side prove their point?

*In order to prove your overall point, you will need to show that there are or are not certain roles or places that people are "forced" into, or that people are or are not treated differently based upon conditions they largely cannot control.*

## Debate Roles

### Opening Statement (2)

- Clearly state your team's position
- Layout a preview of the points your team will make
  - This means you have to understand ALL the arguments your team will be making
- Use visual, descriptive language
- Tell a story that: makes your point seem very strong, introduces your overall argument

### Closing Statement (2)

- Summarize the main points your team made
  - Add specifics to each point
- Critique your opponents' positions (give specifics why they are not correct)
- Give the jury solid reasons to vote for your side
- Let the jury know what it would mean if they did not vote for your side (peer into the future)

### Arguer (10)

- Clearly state your argument
- Give specific supporting details to justify your reasons
- Address counter arguments the other side might make
- Use visual aides and examples to help make your point more effective



Below is a list of arguments you will make. Below each argument are the questions you should use to guide your research.

## **There is a caste system in America**

*These questions are to guide your research. Do not simply answer them and use that for your debate. For instance, think not only of the answer but why the question is important to ask.*

### **Sporting Events**

- How is purchasing a ticket different for different groups of people?
- How is the game experience different for different groups of people?

### **Financial situation you are born into**

- How does the position in life you start greatly affect where you finish?
- What things are difficult to accomplish depending on the situation into which you are born?

### **Politics**

- What do most US Presidents have in common?
- What do most US Senators have in common?
- What role does money play in running for political office?

### **Healthcare**

- How can healthcare be more expensive for someone without a job?
- What is the cost for treatment of common ailments?

### **Celebrity**

- What do celebrities have access to that “normal” people do not?
- How are leisure activities of celebrities different than most Americans?
- How are legal issues of celebrities different than most Americans?

Below is a list of arguments you will make. Below each argument are the questions you should use to guide your research.

### **There is not a caste system in America – Arguer**

#### Sporting Events

- How can the game experience of an average American be the same as that of a rich person?
- Role of ticket agencies such as StubHub.com
- Role of radio station giveaways
- How does television create an equality of the game experience?

#### Financial situation you are born into

- How can “rags to riches” stories prove there is not class system in America?
- What laws are present that do not allow those born in a “lower class” from earning money, achieving education or success?
- How do colleges help even out financial differences?

#### Politics

- In what ways does the US government represent a “typical” American?
- In what ways is government in the US accessible to most Americans?
- Who is allowed to participate in politics by voting?
- Who is allowed to participate in political activities?

#### Healthcare

- How does someone get healthcare with a job?
- What types of jobs offer a health plan?
- Who is allowed to get healthcare at a particular business

#### Celebrity

- How are the properties/items the rich own not meaningfully different from that of “regular” people?

## **There is a caste system in America**

*These questions are to guide your research. Do not simply answer them and use that for your debate. For instance, think not only of the answer by why the question is important to ask.*

### **Sporting Events**

- How is purchasing a ticket different for different groups of people?
  - Go online/stand in line vs. corporate sponsor or given to celebrities
- How is the game experience different for different groups of people?
  - Courtside is close up view, personal waiters, suite is food/tvs
  - Nosebleeds far view, obstructed view, go get own food, feeling of falling, birds flying around up there

### **Financial situation you are born into**

- How does the position in life you start greatly affect where you finish?
  - \$ goes to necessities to live and not savings
  - Personal tutors for rich
  - No savings for college (salary differences as go up in education)
- What things are difficult to accomplish depending on the situation into which you are born?
  - Pay for rent, heating, car insurance, food---nothing left over for furthering life(education)

### **Politics**

- What do most US Presidents have in common?
  - White, Anglo-Saxon, Protestant(% of US that is)
- What do most US Senators have in common?
  - Millionaires(get % of US that is)
- What role does money play in running for political office?
  - Get spending amounts on various political campaigns

### **Healthcare**

- How can healthcare be more expensive for someone without a job?
- What is the cost for treatment of common ailments?
  - Asthma
  - Emergency room visit
  - Monthly medication

### **Celebrity**

- What do celebrities have access to that “normal” people do not?
  - Special treatment at hotels, games, restaurants, police officers
- How are leisure activities of celebrities different than most Americans?
  - Most families plan out a vacation, some drive everywhere, some fly
  - Celebrities fly private jets, are simply billed to their name
- How are legal issues of celebrities different than most Americans?
  - Expensive defense attorneys get “not guilty” verdicts
  - Fines are same: \$250 speeding ticket is easy if salary is 30 million, could be very difficult for college student or a family of 4

Below is a list of arguments you will make. Below each argument are the questions you should use to guide your research.

### **There is not a caste system in America – Arguer**

#### **Sporting Events**

- How can the game experience of an average American be the same as that of a rich person?
  - Could be you both watch it on TV, which is no different. Not all celebrities go to games and get box seats, many watch at home
- Role of ticket agencies such as StubHub.com
  - Agencies such as StubHub allow tickets to be auctioned, sometimes for lower than usual cost
- Role of radio station giveaways
  - A poorer person could wind up winning box seat tickets to a game
- How does television create an equality of the game experience?
  - Everyone sees the same game, shots, plays, replays, insights
  - Many people prefer a game on TV than in person b/c of those benefits

#### **Financial situation you are born into**

- How can “rags to riches” stories prove there is not class system in America?
  - People like Jim Carey and Oprah show that even if you start poor, you can become rich by hard work and persistence, many NBA stars and rappers came from extreme poverty
  - There is no law against how much money you can make or who can make it, even the poor can start businesses, go to college and earn money
- What laws are present that do not allow those born in a “lower class” from earning money, achieving education or success?
- How do colleges help even out financial differences?
  - Scholarships, grants

#### **Politics**

- In what ways does the US government represent a “typical” American?
  - Only official qualifications for President are: born here, 35 years old, lived in America last 14 years
- In what ways is government in the US accessible to most Americans?
  - Constitutional requirements of HOR, Senate
  - There are no constitutional restrictions based on: how much you earn, what situation you were born into
- Who is allowed to participate in politics by voting?
- Who is allowed to participate in political activities?
  - Protest, local meeting, letter to editor, letter to government

#### **Healthcare**

- How does someone get healthcare with a job?
  - You have to be there a certain # of days, then you qualify
- What types of jobs offer a health plan?
  - Most
- Who is allowed to get healthcare at a particular business?
  - Anyone

#### **Celebrity**

- How are the properties/items the rich own not meaningfully different from that of “regular” people?
  - Staying in very classy hotels does not mean they are of a higher class, the point is, you can still stay indoors somewhere
  - Special perks at restaurants do not reveal a difference in classes, going out to eat is something special, not essential for life

Name \_\_\_\_\_

State Standards/Grading

**B.8.4 Explain how and why events may be interpreted differently depending upon perspective**

- 4: Explains perspective in an in-depth manner. The audience is not left with any questions about the material.
- 3: Explains perspective in an in-depth manner, however, the audience is left with questions due to the clarity of the explanation.
- 2: Explains perspective but leaves significant information out, and the audience has major questions due to the clarity of the argument.
- 1: Does not explain perspective or why an event is viewed in a particular manner

**B.8.5 Use evidence to determine and support a position about important values, such as freedom and equality, and express the position clearly**

- 4: Uses significant and relevant evidence to support their position. The supporting details relate directly to the argument.
- 3: Uses significant information, yet the relevancy or supporting details are lacking connection to the argument.
- 2: Evidence is not significant and does not connect to support the argument.
- 1: Evidence is not used to support the argument.

**C.8.7 Locate, organize, and use relevant information to understand an issue of public concern, take a position, and argue the position in a debate**

- 4: Position is very apparent and supported by information that relates directly to argument.
- 3: Position is apparent, but is not supported by information that relates directly to argument.
- 2: Position is not apparent, or, information does not relate directly to argument.
- 1: Position is not apparent and is not supported by information that relates direction to argument.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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### General Debate Rules

- a. Do not get personal: separate your personal feelings about the person from the intellectual arguments you'll be making
- b. Let the other person speak: you will have your say if you just wait for your turn. Speaking over someone only makes you look accusatory and petty
- c. Back up your arguments: use supporting details, facts and cite your sources to make your arguments go from your opinion to widely held supported statements
  - Example: brushing your teeth: if I say it you might agree, but it does not carry as much weight as if I cite a study that shows how many more cavities you might have if you don't, diseases like gingivitis and holes in your teeth, and that 100% of dentists recommend brushing your teeth twice per day.
- d. Empty your brain: do not assume the other side and the judge knows exactly what you are thinking. Assume they do not and fully explain yourself

### Organization:

- Must have website for note-taking
  - Save entire site on flash drive
  - Give short version of website/date during debate (according to nfl.com)
- Be as specific as you can. If someone said something, give their name and qualification
- Be creative: Alyssa ppl do not volunteer, Danella/Caterina picture from mrm
- Take notes while you research, then organize into note-cards

### Plan to Intro on Wed

1. Introduce question w/ song: Does the United States organize people and just not call it a caste system?
2. Make yes/no list
3. Divide into two teams, trade if want to
4. Hand out assignment
5. Research tips
  - Use quotes
  - Cite your sources
6. Visual aides are extremely helpful

### Possible Standards

B.8.2 Employ cause-and-effect arguments to demonstrate how significant events have influenced the past and the present in United States and world history

B.8.4 Explain how and why events may be interpreted differently depending upon the perspectives of participants, witnesses, reporters, and historians

B.8.5 Use historical evidence to determine and support a position about important political values, such as freedom, democracy, equality, or justice, and express the position coherently

B.8.6 Analyze important political values such as freedom, democracy, equality, and justice embodied in documents such as the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights

C.8.3 Explain how laws are developed, how the purposes of government are established, and how the powers of government are acquired, maintained, justified, and sometimes abused



Argument Scoring:

B.8.4 Explain how and why events may be interpreted differently depending upon the perspectives of participants, witnesses, reporters, and historians

B.8.5 Use historical evidence to determine and support a position about important political values, such as freedom, democracy, equality, or justice, and express the position coherently

### **Hour 3**

There is a class system

- Open
- Sporting Events
- Financial situation
- Politics
- Healthcare
- Celebrity
- Close

There is not a class system

- Open
- Sporting Events
- Financial situation
- Politics
- Healthcare
- Celebrity
- Close

### **Hour 4**

There is a class system

- Open
- Sporting Events
- Financial situation
- Politics
- Healthcare
- Celebrity
- Close

There is not a class system

- Open
- Sporting Events
- Financial situation
- Politics
- Healthcare
- Celebrity
- Close

## **Hour 6**

There is a class system

- Open
- Sporting Events
- Financial situation
- Politics
- Healthcare
- Celebrity
- Close

There is not a class system

- Open
- Sporting Events
- Financial situation
- Politics
- Healthcare
- Celebrity
- Close

## **Hour 7**

There is a class system

- Open
- Sporting Events
- Financial situation
- Politics
- Healthcare
- Celebrity
- Close

There is not a class system

- Open
- Sporting Events
- Financial situation
- Politics
- Healthcare
- Celebrity
- Close

